

THE MOCKINGBIRD



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172nd Airlift Wing "Wings of the Deep South" Jackson, MS

A close-up portrait of a woman with short, reddish-brown hair and bangs. She is looking directly at the camera with a slight smile. She is wearing a dark green military uniform jacket. The background is blurred, showing other people in a crowd.

**SMSgt Holly Hammarstrom reminds
everyone - "There are only 20 Drill
Days until the ORI !!!"**



THE

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Dolan Family Letter	2
Safety	4
Family Support	6-7
Airlift Uplift	8

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NOTE: Submit Articles to: The Editor, 172nd Airlift Wing/Public Affairs, 141 Military Drive, Jackson, MS, 39232-8881, or via email to:

publicaffairs@msjack.ang.af.mil

All information for submission **MUST BE RECEIVED PRIOR TO CLOSE OF BUSINESS SATURDAY** of each drill weekend to be included in the next issue! Articles should be in Microsoft Word DOC format and should be limited to one double-spaced page. Photos and graphics must be furnished separately in high resolution JPG or TIFF formats or as a hard copy.

CIRCULATION: 1,600



Thank you!

My family and I would like to thank everyone for their encouragement, support and prayers received during the recent passing of my husband, MSgt. James Dolan.

We will never forget your heartfelt expressions of sympathy (calls, cards, flowers, food and your comforting presence) during this difficult time. The love, thoughtfulness and support we continue to receive is appreciated beyond words.

When James and I married, he opened up to my girls and myself a new world called the "military family." What a wonderful group of people you have been to us — not only during this time but before. When James was deployed to Turkey for six month, I had to move Erica, my daughter and James' step-daughter, to Starkville to attend MSU. Before James left for Turkey, he lined up three guys from the Base to help move Erica. They were at our home at 7:00 a.m., loaded all of Erica's items and furniture, followed me to Starkville, unloaded everything, set up all her items in her apartment and would not accept a cent for their help.

When my daughter Jenny, James' step-daughter, moved into her one-bedroom apartment on the third floor, James had asked for help and there were his friends from the Base to help.

I will never forget the kindness and support this "military family" has shown my family and I. As James was proud to be in the military, I am proud to be a part of such a wonderful family.

Please keep my family and I in your prayers.

Marie Mason-Dolan and Family



Blue Cross Blue Shield of Mississippi donated \$4,070 to the Mississippi Military Family Relief Fund in memory of MSgt James Dolan recently. Pictured, from left, are Lisa Lewis, MSgt Norman Huggins, Marie Mason-Dolan, Marsha Ivy, Ron Graves, Maj Wyatt Rives and Marianne Breland.

ON THE COVER

SMSgt Holly Hammarstrom, with her face covered with charcoal dust, takes a break from the ATSO Exercise.

Photo By MSgt David Longmire

172nd's Mission Capability Rate Above 90% for last Year

The 172nd Airlift Wing, Mississippi Air National Guard, is leading all other C-17 bases in the entire U.S. Air Force with a 12-month consecutive aircraft mission capability (MC) rate of more than 90 percent.

"This is a phenomenal accomplishment. My hat's off to those guys in our Maintenance Group who made this happen," said Col. William O. Hill, 172nd Airlift Wing Commander.

"This really enhances our capability to fly more missions," Hill said. Having more planes in the air is crucial when flying a mission as important as the 172nd's – medical air evacuation for the war in Iraq. Over the past 12 months, the unit has amassed 8150 flight hours with 88 percent of those hours in support of Operation Enduring/Iraqi Freedom, transporting supplies into the war zone and transporting wounded troops out of the war zone for treatment in Germany and back to the United States.

A unit's MC rate describes how ready its airplanes are to fly at least one of the aircraft's designed missions. During the last 12 months the unit's MC rate has been 92 percent. Air Mobility Command's C-17 MC rate was 88 percent for the same time period.

A ceremony was held at the Home Station Check hangar Dec. 2, 2006. More than 300 airmen applauded as Col Harold Mashburn received an award from Brig Gen Erik Herron, Commander Mississippi Air National Guard, acknowledging this exceptional maintenance record.

"We have extremely talented maintainers supported by a very resourceful Logistics Readiness Squadron and contract logistics support agencies comprised of Boeing, Inc. and Pratt & Whitney. Together we have made this possible," commented Lt. Col Harold G. Mashburn, commander of the 172nd's Aircraft Maintenance Squadron. "We are merely showing the world what the Air Guard in Jackson can do."



Photo by TSgt Michelle Cheek

Brig. Gen Erik Hearon, Commander Mississippi Air National Guard, right, listens as Lt Col Harold Mashburn speaks during a ceremony celebrating a year of Mission Capability above 90 percent. At left are several members representing the 172nd Maintenance Group.

Wing Safety Office



172 AW Traffic Code

AFI 31-204/172SUP 1, dated 15 November 2005, contains the traffic code for the 172d Airlift Wing. Some of the requirements/prohibitions are listed below:

Maximum Speed Limits:

Military Drive – 30 mph

On-Base – 20 mph

Flightline and unpaved surfaces – 10 mph

In close proximity to marching formations – 10 mph

When on approach to Installation Entry Control Points – 10 mph

All parking lots – 5 mph

Use of Cellular Telephones While Operating a Motor Vehicle:

No person may operate a motor vehicle on any portion of any roadway while using a cellular telephone. **EXCEPTION:** Operators may use a hands-free device as long as the device does not substantially impair their hearing.

Quiet Zones and Hours:

Vehicle stereos will not be played at a volume that can be heard from a distance exceeding 15 feet in any direction.

Seat Belts:

All people in a moving motor vehicle on Air Force installations or off an installation using the vehicle for the conduct of Air Force business must ensure operability and use of available installed occupant protective devices (restraints, air bags, child safety seats, etc) required by the Code of Federal Regulations, Part 571, Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards. Operators of POVs and government vehicles will ensure all occupants have properly secured seat belts before vehicles are placed in motion.



TSgt Anthony McLemore checks the identification of a visitor to the base at the West Gate.



Wing Human Resource Advisor

SMSgt Sam McGee



Hello from the HRA office

I am SMSgt Sam McGee the new unit Human Resource Advisor (HRA). Basically the three main functions of this office are Mission Driven Mentoring, Diversity, and be an advisor to the commander.

To fulfill these responsibilities I will work with many different areas of the unit to include: Recruiting, Retention, MEO, first sergeants, and others who are involved with the life cycle of our members. I will be submitting articles to The Mockingbird dealing with various HRA topics. The first of these will deal with the 16 enduring leadership competencies.

A senior group of Air Force enlisted and officer members formulated these 16 enduring leadership competencies in AFDD 1-1, Leadership and Force Development. They are structured over three leadership levels, and three major competency areas.

The three leadership levels are Tactical (Personal/Junior enlisted-officers), Operational (People/Team/Mid-grade enlisted-officers), and Strategic (Institutional/Senior leadership).

Enduring Leadership Competency #1, Exercise Sound Judgement. We do this by using a disciplined approach to problem solving or making decisions. We begin by gathering facts and information, then reviewing them in a timely manner, and finally making a decision. This process sounds simple on the surface, but it requires knowing a good deal of details.

Details are needed such as where to gather information, and if it is readily available through reports and consistent sources. Does the information come from someone's opinion, or is it good hard data that is accurate? Timely decision-making is vital. Caution is crucial in order to prevent analysis paralysis. We need to know the timing required to make critical decisions. Extremely important is a decision that considers the needs of the stakeholders involved. Finally, how much will it cost to implement the decision versus a return on investment (ROI).

Below are a couple of links that discuss this general topic in greater detail.

<http://www.instituteforstrategicclarity.org/dmp.htm>

http://www.mindtools.com/pages/main/newMN_TED.htm

Please feel free to come by my office anytime and discuss any of the above issues, or any other topic dealing with your career. I am located in Bldg 116, Room 124 or call Ext 8595.

172nd Airlift Control Fight (TALCE) Vacancy

The 172nd Airlift Control squadron has a opening for a Traditional Guardsman Ground Radio Specialist (AFSC 2E173) with a maximum pay grade E-7.

For more information contact Maj Ed Evans, (601) 405-8160 or CMSgt Robert Owens, (601) 405-8522.



Deadline for DeCA Scholarship Applications is February 21

By Bonnie Powell
Defense Commissary Agency

FORT LEE, Va. (AFPN) — The Scholarships for Military Children Program applications, sponsored by the Defense Commissary Agency, are now available for 2007.

Applications for the \$1,500 scholarships are available at 264 commissaries worldwide, or can be downloaded through links at www.commissaries.com, www.militaryscholar.org or www.dodea.edu.

"Scholarships for Military Children is a wonderful military community program," said Patrick Nixon, DeCA director and chief executive officer. "Nearly 3,000 scholarships totaling over \$4 million have been awarded since the first awards were given in 2001."

The \$1,500 scholarships are available for children of military active-duty, retired, Guard and Reserve servicemembers. Most of the funds are donated by manufacturers, brokers and suppliers selling groceries in commissaries; every dollar donated to the program by industry or the general public goes to fund the scholarships. The program is administered by the Fisher House Foundation.

A significant number of scholarships, about 10 percent every year, go to high school students at Department of Defense schools overseas.

"Every cent that community organizations can mobilize to support college-bound students is an investment in the future," said Joseph Tafoya, director of the Department of Defense Education Activity.

"With college costs soaring, our DOD students and their parents appreciate every available scholarship to help defray the cost, and the scholarships enable many of our families to better afford the tuition and provide an incentive for students to work hard," Mr. Tafoya said. "They also demonstrate that military communities are committed to education and increased opportunities for all students," he said.

The scholarship program has also made inroads to increasing support from the "nonmilitary" community. California high school students sponsoring golf tournaments in 2006 raised thousands of dollars to donate to the program, and already for 2007, a private foundation has made a substantial donation. "We're excited to see this worthwhile program gaining recognition and funding from the community at large, said Jim Weiskopf, vice president of communications at Fisher House Foundation. "Commissary industry support has been amazing and increased public support can only help ensure that the Scholarships for Military Children program continues to benefit the military community for many years to come," Mr. Weiskopf said."

Donations can be made through the link at www.militaryscholar.org, the official program Web site.

Applications for 2007, which includes an essay on "how and why" the applicant would change an historical event, must be turned in at a commissary by close of business Feb. 21, 2007. At least one \$1,500 scholarship will be awarded at every commissary location with qualified applicants.

The program is open to unmarried children under the age of 21 (23 if enrolled in school) of military active-duty, Reserve, Guard and retired personnel. Eligibility will be determined using the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System database. Applicants should ensure that they, as well as their sponsor, are enrolled in the DEERS database and have a current ID card.

The applicant must be planning to attend, or already attending, an accredited college or university full-time in the fall term of 2007, or enrolled in a program of studies designed to transfer directly into a four-year program.

Hero Salute Program Extended

Any active duty, activated or drilling reservist, or National Guardsman is entitled to free admission under the Here's to the Heroes program. He or she need only register, either by clicking [here](#) and submitting his or her information or in the entrance plaza of participating parks, and show a Department of Defense photo ID. As many as three direct dependents of military personnel also are entitled to free admission. Dependents may take advantage of the offer without their service member, though an adult must accompany minor dependents. Busch Gardens Williamsburg and SeaWorld San Antonio are seasonal operations that will remain closed until spring 2007. Military personnel interested in visiting those parks should check operating schedules. Click [here](#) for Busch Gardens Williamsburg. Click [here](#) for SeaWorld San Antonio. Click [here](#) for Sesame Place. The remaining parks, SeaWorld Orlando, Busch Gardens Tampa Bay and SeaWorld San Diego are open year round.

Valid for one complimentary single-day admission per person, per year, to one of the following Anheuser-Busch Adventure Parks: SeaWorld Orlando, San Diego, or San Antonio, Busch Gardens Tampa Bay or Williamsburg, Sesame Place, Water Country USA, Adventure Island.

"Budweiser is honored to salute the men and women of our armed forces and their families. Throughout 2007, members of the military and as many as three direct dependents may enter any one of Anheuser-Busch's SeaWorld, Busch Gardens or Sesame Place parks with a single-day complimentary admission."

<http://www.herosalute.com/states/index.html>

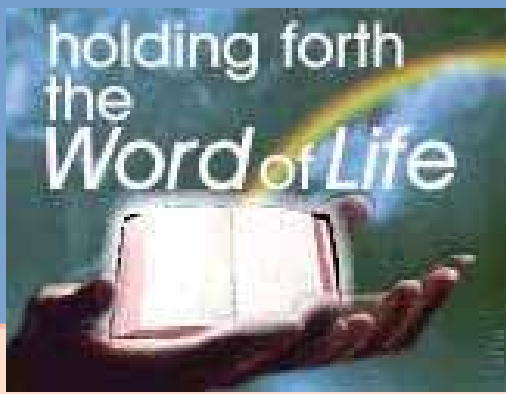
Military OneSource to offer Free H&R Block TaxCut Basic Online

Help with taxes is on the way. Starting January 15, Military OneSource brings you H&R Block TaxCut Basic Online — free to service members.



Photos by MSgt Andy Miller

TSgt Jason Ramsey, left, waits for the "All Clear" in the safe room of BLDG 129 during the ATSO Exercise. Above, Maj Steven Lindsley logs off of his computer.



Airlift Uplift

“God says we do not have to be afraid”

By Chaplain (Lt Col) Kenneth R. Elliott

The New Year is here, and just about everyone is thinking about a new year's resolution. It is their way of dealing with bad habits. Of course, a new year's resolution is a promise that most people do not keep. It seems to me that what they are saying is that they really want to change so they will be more successful in the coming year.

The point is that people need to be thoroughly committed to something in order to be a success at it. Joe Namath said, “If you're not going all the way, why go at all?” This is where people go wrong, they really do not want to really commit, sacrifice, and do what it takes to be a success.

The Bible talks about success but it is not what the world expects. Great numbers of dollars does not measure it. In addition, as Joshua, the great Old Testament warrior, learned, success is not measured by the number of soldiers you have either.

As the people were about to go into the Promised Land to take it, God reminded him that success was in the attitude you have and the way you live. He said, “Be strong and courageous, because you will lead these people to inherit the land I swore to their forefathers to given.

Be strong and very courageous, Be careful to obey all the law my servant Moses gave you; do not turn from it to the right or to the left, that you may be SUCCESSFUL wherever you go.

Do not let this Book of the Law depart from your mouth; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be PROSPEROUS and SUCCESSFUL (Joshua 1:6-8 NIV).

There are two things to remember. First, Obey God. If you want to be successful in the coming year commit yourself to obeying God's commandments and his ways. I guarantee that your quality of life will be better.

Secondly, do not be afraid of the future. For Joshua the future seemed uncertain, facing a hostile enemy, but God knew the outcome.

God says we do not have to be afraid. He tells us that he is with us. If that is the case, Be Strong and Courageous!